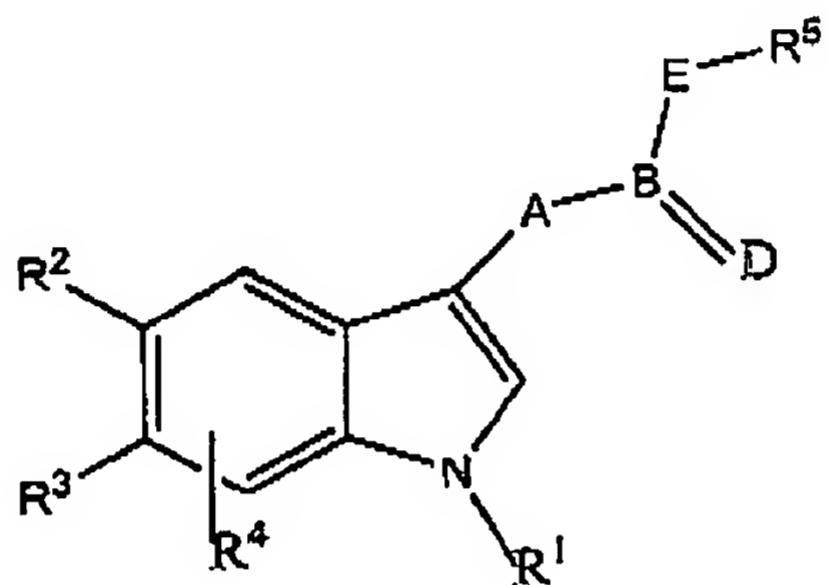


IN THE CLAIMSRECEIVED
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CLAIMS

1. A method for the treatment of a skin disease comprising topically administering a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



1

in which

 R^1 is

(i) $-C_{1-12}$ -alkyl, straight-chain or branched-chain or $-C_2-C_{12}$ alkenyl, mono- or polyunsaturated, optionally mono- or polysubstituted by $-OH$, $-SH$, $-NH_2$, $-NHC_{1-6}$ -alkyl, $-N(C_{1-6}$ -alkyl) $_2$, $-NHC_{6-14}$ aryl, $-N(C_{6-14}aryl)_2$, $-N(C_{1-14}aryl)_2$, $-N(C_{1-6}$ -alkyl)(C_{6-14} aryl), $-NHCOR^6$, $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-F$, $-Cl$, $-Br$, $-I$, $-O-C_{1-6}$ -alkyl, $-O-C_{6-14}$ -aryl, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-S-C_{1-6}$ -alkyl, $-S-C_{6-14}$ aryl, $-SOR^6$, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R^6$, $-OSO_2C_{1-6}$ -alkyl, $-OSO_2C_{6-14}$ aryl, $-(CS)R^6$, $-COOH$, $-(CO)R^6$, mono-, bi or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycles having 3-14 ring members, mono-, bi- or

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tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated heterocycles having 5-15 ring members and 1-6 heteroatoms, which are preferably N, O and S, wherein the C₆₋₁₄aryl groups and the carbocyclic and heterocyclic substituents for their part can optionally be mono- or polysubstituted by R⁴,

(ii) a mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycle having 3-14 ring members or a mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated heterocycle having 5-15 ring members and 1-6 heteroatoms, which are preferably N, O and S, or a carbo- or heterocyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated spirocycle having 3-10 ring members, where heterocyclic systems contain 1-6 heteroatoms, which are preferably N, O and S, optionally mono- or polysubstituted by -OH, -SH, -NH₂, NHC₁₋₆ alkyl, -N(C₁₋₆-alkyl)₂, -NHC₆₋₁₄aryl, -N(C₆₋₁₄aryl)₂, -N(C₁₋₆alkyl)(C₆₋₁₄aryl), -NHCOR⁶-NO₂, -CN, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -O-C-1-6 alkyl, -O-C₆₋₁₄-aryl, -O(CO)R⁶, -S-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S-C₆₋₁₄aryl, -SOR⁶, -SO₃H, -SO₂R⁶, -OSO₂C₁₋₆alkyl, -OSO₂C₆₋₁₄ aryl, -(CS)R⁶, -COOH, -(CO)R⁶ mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycles having 3-14 ring members, mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated heterocycles having 5-15 ring members and 1-6 heteroatoms, which are preferably N, O and S, wherein the C₆₋₁₄aryl groups and the carbocyclic and heterocyclic substituents can optionally be mono- or polysubstituted by R⁴,

R⁵ is

a mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycle having 3-14 ring members or a mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated heterocycle having 5-15 ring members and 1-6 heteroatoms, which are preferably N, O and S, or a carbo- or heterocyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated spirocycle having 3-10 ring members, where heterocyclic systems contain 1-6 heteroatoms, which preferably N, O and S, optionally mono- or polysubstituted by -OH, -SH, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₆ alkyl, -N(C₁₋₆-alkyl)₂, -NHC₆₋₁₄aryl, -N(C₆₋₁₄aryl)₂,

-N(C₁₋₆alkyl)(C₆₋₁₄aryl), -NHCOR⁶, -NO₂, -CN, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -O-C₁₋₅-alkyl, -O-C₆₋₁₄-aryl, -O(CO)R⁶, -S-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S-C₆₋₁₄aryl, -SOR⁶, -SO₃H, -SO₂R⁶, -OSO₂C₁₋₆alkyl, OSO₂C₆₋₁₄aryl, -(CS)R⁶, -COOH, -(CO)R⁶, mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycles having 3-14 ring members, mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated heterocycles having 5-15 ring members and 1-6 heteroatoms, which are preferably N, O and S, wherein the C₆₋₁₄aryl groups and the carbocyclic and heterocyclic substituents can optionally be mono- or polysubstituted by R⁴ with the proviso that R⁵ contains at least one substituent selected from -F, -Cl, -Br, -I;

R², R³ are hydrogen or -OH, where at least one of the two substituents must be -OH;

R⁴ is

-H, -OH, -SH, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₆-alkyl, -N(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂, -NHC₆₋₁₄aryl, -N(C₆₋₁₄aryl)₂, -N(C₁₋₆alkyl)(C₆₋₁₄aryl), -NHCOR⁶, -NO₂, -CN, -COOH, -(CO)R⁶, -(CS)R⁶, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -O-C₆₋₁₄-aryl, -O(CO)R⁶, -S-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S-C₆₋₁₄aryl, -SOR⁶, -SO₂R⁶, -C₁₋₆-alkyl, wherein each aryl or alkyl may be mono- or polysubstituted by -OH, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I;

R⁶ is

-H, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₆-alkyl, -N(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂, -NHC₆₋₁₄aryl, -N(C₆₋₁₄aryl)₂, -N(C₁₋₆alkyl)(C₆₋₁₄aryl), -O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -O-C₆₋₁₄-aryl, -S-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S-C₆₋₁₄aryl, -C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, straight-chain or branched-chain, -C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, mono- or polyunsaturated, straight-chain or branched-chain, mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycles having 3-14 ring members,

mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated heterocycles having 5-15 ring members and 1-6 heteroatoms, which are preferably N, O and S;

A is either a bond, or

-(CH₂)_m, -(CH₂)_m-(CH=CH)_n-(CH₂)_p-, -(CHOZ)_m-, -(C=O)-, -(C=S)-, -(C=N-Z)-, -O-,

-S-, -NZ-,

wherein m, p=0-3 and n=0-2 and

Z is

-H, or

-C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, straight-chain or branched-chain,

-C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, mono- or polyunsaturated, straight-chain or branched-chain,

mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycles having 3-14 ring members,

mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated heterocycles having 5-15 ring members and 1-6 heteroatoms, which are preferably N, O and S;

B is either carbon or sulfur, or -(S=O)-;

D is oxygen sulfur, CH₂ or N-Z,

where, if B is carbon, D is S or CH₂;

E is a bond, or

-(CH₂)_m-, -O-, -S-, -(N-Z)-, wherein m and Z have the meaning already described above.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein R⁵ is selected from monocyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycles and heterocycles having at least one halogen substituent.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein R⁵ is selected from monocyclic aromatic carbocycles and heterocycles having at least one halogen substituent.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein R⁵ is a pyridine ring having at least one halogen substituent.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein R⁵ is a phenyl ring having at least one halogen substituent.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein R¹ is selected from C₁-C₁₂ alkyl, which is optionally substituted.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein R¹ is selected from monocyclic saturated or mono- or polyunsaturated carbocycles or heterocycles, which are optionally substituted.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein R² is OH and R³ is H.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein A is selected from -(C=O)- and -(CHOH)-.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein B is C.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein D is O.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein E is -(N--H)-.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein compound (I) is (N-3,5-dichloro-4-pyridinyl)-2-[1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-hydroxy-1 H-indol-3-yl]-2-oxoacetamide).

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~14~~ wherein the allergic disease is an allergic dermatitis.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the compound is administered to a skin area which is afflicted with the disease after an allergic challenge.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the compound is administered up to 48 h after the allergic challenge.

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 1-19 wherein the further pharmaceutical agent is administered and is a drug that stimulates cAMP production.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the further pharmaceutical agent is a corticosteroid.

22. (new) The method of claim 15, wherein the allergic disease is allergic dermatitis.

23. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising administering a further pharmaceutical agent.